

Cancer in Washington

Steering Committee

Elaine Engle, MS
Spokane Regional Health District

Robin Evans-Agnew, MN
American Lung Association of Washington

Cathleen Goetsch, MSN,
ARNP, AOCN
Puget Sound Chapter
Oncology Nursing Society

Anna Gottlieb, MPA
Gilda's Club Seattle

Lynn Hagerman
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation – Puget Sound Affiliate

Jeffrey Harris, MD, MPH, MBA
UW Health Promotion Research Center

Gary Meadows, PhD
WSU Cancer Prevention and Research Center

Carrie Nass, BS, CHES
National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service

Patricia Santiago, MAOM
American Cancer Society

Juliet VanEenwyk, PhD
Washington State Department of Health

Vivien Webb Hanson, MD
Individual Member Representative

For more information:

Washington State Department of Health – Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

(360) 236-3784
cancer@doh.wa.gov

Website:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ccp/>

FACT SHEET

The burden of cancer in Washington is *heavy*...

- Cancer is the second leading cause of death overall.¹
- Cancer causes about 1 in 4 deaths.¹
- 31,001 new cases of cancer were diagnosed in 2001.²
- 10,780 residents died of cancer in 2001.¹

AND the burden of cancer is *unequal*...

- **Race/ethnicity** – African-Americans have the highest rate of death from cancer.²
- **Age** – Cancer mortality increases sharply with age. Cancer is the leading cause of death among adults 45-74 years of age in Washington.¹
- **Sex** – Men have higher overall rates of new cancer and cancer death than women.²

AND the burden of cancer is *likely to increase*...

- Washington's population is aging.³ With an aging population, the burden of cancer is likely to grow.

BUT, *we can meet the challenge through*...

Comprehensive Cancer Control – A coordinated and integrated approach to reducing cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality through prevention, early detection, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation.

- **Effective prevention** – Scientists estimate that over half of cancer deaths are due to lifestyle choices.⁴
- **Early detection** – People are still dying from cancers we can detect early when the cancer may be more curable.
- **Quality cancer care** – Language, culture, low education level, lack of insurance, and lack of transportation are some of the barriers that prevent many from receiving prevention, screening, therapeutic, and palliative services.³ About 495,000 (8.4%) Washington residents were uninsured in 2000.
- **Research** – Scientific research is the engine that drives methods of cancer prevention, improved early detection and successful treatment methods.

Sources

¹ Washington State Vital Statistics, 2001

² Washington State Cancer Registry, 1999-2001

³ The Health of Washington State, 2002

⁴ Harvard Report on Cancer Prevention, Volume I: Human Causes of Cancer, 1996